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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

KNUDSON ET AL.

Examiner:

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Serial No.:

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Docket No.:

11587.1USCA

Title:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING CORONARY ARTERY

BYPASS SURGERY

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment for the above application. Applicants respectfully request that an interference be declared between the above application, as amended, in which Applicants copy claims from U.S. Patent No. 6,290,728, and U.S. Patent No. 6,290,728.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.